

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to improve the style of this application. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

In particular claim 6 has been amended to include the features of claim 7. The Office Action indicates that claim 7 is objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is Applicant's position that the changes to claim 6 are in accordance with the conditions for allowance of claim 7. Claim 6, should therefore be allowable.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to include the features of claim 6. The Office Action indicates that claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of a base claim and any intervening claims. The Amendment to claim 8 has been made in accordance with the above conditions, and it is Applicant's position that claim 8 should now be in condition for allowance.

Original claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. In particular the claim has been rejected as being a single means claim. With this Amendment Applicant is submitting new claim 20 which contains the tension switch means of original claim 6, in combination with a platen drum, an ink ribbon and a thermal head. New claim 20 is now a combination claim, and is therefore proper according to 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the

Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

By: 

Theobald Dengler  
Registration No. 34,575  
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

TD:tf  
70344.9

DATED: December 16, 2003  
SCARBOROUGH STATION  
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827  
(914) 941-5600

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-  
0410.